

**National Capital Region Monitoring Goals  
Science Advisory Committee Meeting  
Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Park  
4-18-02**

The NPS participants of the SAC met to discuss Network Goals.

Present: Bryan Gorsira, Marcus Koenen, Mikaila Milton, Ellen Gray, Ed Wenschhoff, Joe Calzarette, Dianne Ingram, Brent Steury, Ann Branzinski, Marie Frias, Sue Salmons, Marian Norris, Dale Nisbet, Becky Lancosky, and Chris Wright.

Marcus Koenen and Mikaila Milton provided an overview on the need for network goals. Mikaila then lead a brainstorming session to identify themes that the I & M Team would articulate into goals. The Discussion identified the following themes and grouped them together:

Theme 1.

- Identify Critical Resources
  - Cultural Landscape Elements: water/karst, vegetation patterns, agricultural viability
  - Baseline data on status of resources.
  - ID critical resources (vital signs) that we must monitor to ensure that enabling legislation values are protected.
- Assess Ecosystem health
  - Detect changes in ecosystem health
  - Status and threats to important plant populations and habitats (particularly rare sp.).
  - Determine viable pop sizes for Important (keystone & umbrella) species.
  - Population and community persistence (for the long term).
  - Population and community resilience (able to withstand catastrophes).
  - Status of NCR water resources
  - Assess condition of most critical resources

Theme 2.

- Assessing Threats
  - Too many invasive plants: help us reduce them
  - Status & threats to important wildlife population and habitats (particularly amphibian and deer)
  - Assess the severity of threats to important resources
  - Too many deer: help us reduce them
- Management Recommendations
  - Research appropriate mitigation of threats

- Identify management actions needed to protect park resources
- Information concerning our effect on the resources
- Recommend management strategies to promote ecosystem health network-wide.
- Parks are too small: help us increase their size

#### Theme 3.

- Effective Information Management (In accessible form) and presentation and support
  - Don't let resources/sites get lost in time; have back-up for this prevention; continuity of program; long-term data management
  - Digital data layers (GIS)
  - Manage data centrally
  - Data sharing between parks (storage and access) from central place
  - Regional data archiving
- Education
  - Transfer of I&M info to public education
  - Communicate monitoring results to public and all park staff and divisions

#### Theme 4.

- Collaboration
  - Coordinate with local data collection efforts to establish protocols for data sharing
  - Work closely with State DNR's
  - Information sharing between park divisions, public, etc.

#### Them 5.

- Management Recommendations
  - Information concerning our effect on the resources
  - Down road, Review monitoring results, analyze trends, continue or change strategies
  - Quality information for management decisions

Next Steps: The I & M Team will articulate the Network Goals based on the themes identified above. The Goals will be sent to the NPS – SAC members for approval. Once approved by the SAC, the I & M Team will ask the Board of Directors for their approval.